The GlueX experiment and its place in the global search for exotic mesons

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Bound States in QCD and Beyond II St. Goar, Germany February 21, 2017

The role of hadron spectroscopy in studying QCD

QCD and Spectroscopy

- Features of QCD
 - six flavors of quarks with various masses
 - strongly interacting quarks <u>and</u> gluons
 - asymptotic freedom
 - confinement
- Observations about hadrons in nature
 - spectrum dominated by colorless "quark model" states
 - gluonic degrees of freedom suppressed or difficult to observe
 - structure and spectrum of hadrons containing light quarks exhibit complexity (and simplicity)





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QCD and **Spectroscopy**



Meson Quantum Numbers

color singlet quark anti-quark



 $J = L + S P = (-1)^{L+1} C = (-1)^{L+S}$

Allowed J^{PC}: 0⁻⁺, 0⁺⁺, 1⁻⁻, 1⁺⁻, 2⁺⁺, ... Forbidden J^{PC}: 0⁻⁻, 0⁺⁻, 1⁻⁺, 2⁺⁻, ...



Light Quark Mesons from Lattice QCD

Dudek, Edwards, Guo, and Thomas, PRD 88, 094505 (2013)



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A Model for Hybrids



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Hybrids, Tetraquarks, and Pentaquarks (...oh my)

- QCD seems to permit a particle zoo nature prefers just a few species.
 - if true, why?
- An interesting history of hybrid searches
 - reports: VES, E852, Crystal Barrel, COMPASS, ...
 - no clear spectrum of states
 - GlueX is unique: intensity and production mechanism
- An interesting contemporary landscape
 - strong evidence for new types of mesons in heavy quark systems
 - clear tetraquark and pentaquark candidates; perhaps hybrids with conventional quantum numbers
 - GlueX is complementary: exploration of light quarks

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The context for the GlueX Experiment

Spectroscopy: Everybody's Doin' It

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hadron probes

electromagnetic probes











ongoing/future

completed/analysis



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colliding beam

Global Context

- Exciting results in the heavy quark sector:
 - pentaquark candidates
 - tetraquark candidates
- Exciting results in the light quark sector:
 - potential exotic hybrid mesons
- An overarching theme:
 - need to confront state of the art experimental results with state of the art experimental interpretation
 - limited by the systematic uncertainties in our understanding of the underlying physics rather than our understanding of the detector or the statistical precision of the data



Baryon Spectroscopy with Charmonium

 $B \to pKJ/\psi$



Pentaquark Candidates



Meson Spectroscopy with Charmonium



Tetraquark Candidates

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Light Mesons in Pion Production



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GlueX + JPAC

- High statistical precision allows <u>and requires</u> removing simplifying assumptions in analysis
 - more robust theoretical models ("wetware")
 - more capable analysis frameworks ("software")
- JPAC: Joint Physics Analysis Center
 - joint theory initiative led by Indiana University and Jefferson Lab
 - emphasis on phenomenology: how to interpret experimental data
 - a global network
- Direct collaboration: theorists and experimentalists working together on the analysis and interpretation of data
 - joint theory/experiment summer schools





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The GlueX Experiment and its first preliminary results

GlueX in Hall D at 12 GeV JLab

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• GlueX + Hall D beamline features:

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- beam species: polarized photon; peak polarization at 9 GeV (assuming 12 GeV electron beam)
- high intensity: 200 kHz hadronic interaction rate around 9 GeV
- energy optimized for production of mesons with masses up to 3 GeV





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Hall D Experimental Complex April 2012

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The Hall D Photon Beamline





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GlueX Detector with Prof. Curtis Meyer GlueX Spokesperson October 2014 E

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GlueX Intensity

- First results use a subset of spring 2016 data:
 - 82 hours beam time: \approx 7 days at 50% efficiency
 - 10x more this year
 - 100x more in the next few years
- Typical stats:
 - 30 kHz event recording rate
 - 750 MB/s off the detector
 - I PB data to disk last year



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Analysis Strategy

- Validate the capabilities and properties of detector with single particle production
 - benchmark cross sections
 - known branching ratios
- Initial physics results likely to be:
 - beam asymmetries
 - polarization transfer
 - bump hunting in mass spectra
 - searches for beyond standard model physics
- On the path to a core program of:
 - amplitude analysis of multi-particle final states: hybrid searches
 - precision cross section measurements



Single Pseudoscalar Production Asymmetry

 Angle between polarization plane and reaction plane is sensitive to parity of exchange

$$\hat{\sigma}_{pol}(\phi, \phi_{\gamma}^{lin}) = \sigma_{unpol} \left[1 - P_{\gamma} \Sigma cos \left(2(\phi - \phi_{\gamma}^{lin}) \right) \right]$$

- Detector systematics removed by rotating polarization plane by 90 degrees and computing asymmetry
- Asymmetry Σ has a *t* dependence
- Constrains *t*-channel backgrounds for *s*-channel baryon t resonance production

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Asymmetry Measurement



Extracting Σ



Single Pseudoscalar Production Asymmetry

- Correlated uncertainty due to polarization: < 5%
- GlueX π^0 production asymmetry
 - more precise than SLAC
 - no dip around $t = 0.5 (\text{GeV}/c)^2$
- First measurements of η production asymmetry
- A test of high energy *t*-channel production models
- Similar production mechanism expected for exotics



GlueX Collaboration, arXiv:1701.08123 (subm. to PRL)

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Summary

- Use spectroscopy to understand the degrees of freedom present when hadrons are constructed in QCD
 - how are these linked to interactions in the QCD Lagrangian?
- The last ten years have been very exciting
 - candidates for hybrids, pentaquarks, tetraquarks
 - most activity in the heavy quark sector
- GlueX is well positioned to carry this momentum into the future
 - unique opportunity to study of the light quark spectrum in photoproduction
 - data are being collected and a program of analysis has begun
 - first results submitted for publication

